

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-06

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 OMB-01 SWF-01 /061 W

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R 301810Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4844

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5966

FROM ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS AGREE ON
REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

1. SUMMARY: MEETING IN SAN JOSE OCTOBER 25-26 THE CA AND PANAMA
AGMINS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A REGINAL AGRICULTRUAL PROGRAM TO
PROVIDE:
A) GREATER LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AGRUCULTURE
SECTOR IN THE PROCESS OF RESTRUCTURING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON
MARKET, AND
B) COORDINATED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND
SUPPLY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.
2. SIECA PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR
THE MEETING, AND SUPPLIES TWO BASIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE MINISTERS'
CONSIDERATION, TO WIT "CENTRAL AMERICAN BASIC GRAINS SITUATION AND
PROSPECTS--OUTLINES FOR A REGINAL ACTION PROGRAM" AND "THE
AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN A RESTRUCTURED COMMON MARKET".

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3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THE AG MINISTERS SUBSCRIBED

TO A LENGTHY DOCUMENT DOMINATED " THE AGREEMENT OF SAN JOSE".

4. MAIN FEATURES OF THE AGREEMENT (COPIES AND TRANSLATION BY POUCH) REACHED AT SAN JOSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) ACCORD HIGHEST PRIORITY TO MEETING REGIONAL DEMANDS FOR FOOD.
- B) COORDINATE EXTERNAL PROCUREMENT DURING 1974-75.
- C) IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE RURAL SECTOR THROUGH IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION.
- D) ACHIEVE REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN GRAINS BY 1980.
- E) ESTABLISH SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO MAKE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CA AGMINS AT THEIR NEXT MTG, SET FOR END JANUARY, 1975.
- F. ESTABLISH REGULAR SYSTEM OF AGMIN MTGS.
- G) SUPPORT CACM RESTRUCTURING IN CA HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN).
- H) GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CATTLE INDUSTRY, FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CA PARTICIPATION IN WORLD MEAT MARKET, AND TO ACHIEVE REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MILK PRODUCTS.
- I) SUPPORT OIRSA MEASURES AGAINST AFTOSA AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES.
- J) COORDINATE REGIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY WITH THE TROPICAL AG RESEARCH CENTER (CATIE - IN COSTA RICA) AND THE CA NUTRITIONAL INSTITUTE (INCAP - IN GUATEMALA).
- K) REQUEST SIECA'S ATTENDANCE AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME, NOV. 5-16, TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL HELP AND COORDINATION FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.

5. COMMENT: ROCAP NOTES WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT CENTRAL AMERICA, ALBEIT WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LAG, IS MATERIALLY INTENSIFYING ITS FOCUS ON THE RURAL SECTOR AND, IN PARTICULAR, A REGIONAL APPROACH TO AGRICULTURE POLICY. TRAGEN.

ALSO PASSED INFO USAID/GUATEMALA.
ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM05966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740310-0751
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974108/aaaaafxg.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS AGREE ON REGIONAL ACTION PLAN
TAGS: EAGR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005